MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST ADDENDUM SHEET U.S. 301 SOUTH CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Property Name: Old Bells Methodist Church Survey No.: PG: 76B-17 (PACS A179)

Property Address_6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Prince George's County
Owner Name/Address_Trustees of Bells Methodist Church, 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746
Year Built_1909-1910, 1954, 1960

National Register Boundary Description:

The National Register Boundary for Old Bells Methodist Church corresponds to the boundaries defined for Prince George's County Tax Map Page 98, Parcel 113. This parcel is bounded on the north by Allentown Road, on the east and south by Andrews Air Force Base, and on the west by an adjacent tax parcel. The boundary encompasses 3.47 hectares (8.57 acres). The cemetery, the 1909 chapel, the 1954 sanctuary, the circa 1960 education building and the circa 1960 parsonage are contributing resources, as they represent the evolution of the property throughout the twentieth century. The sites of the circa 1850 chapel and the circa 1870 chapel are also within the boundry. The boundary includes the land purchased by the church for the first chapel in 1850 and for the current chapel in 1909.

Bibliography:

Bells Church. October 20, 1998. Julie Darsie, conversation with clergy. Baltimore: P.A.C. Spero and Co.

Lanier, Gabrielle and Bernard L. Herman. 1997. Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Readmond, Louise et al. 1980. The Beginnings of Bells United Methodist Church, Camp Springs Maryland, 1805-1990. Suitland, MD: Bells United Methodist Church.

MHT CONCURRENCE: Eligibility recommended not recommended Criteria A B C D Considerations Comments:	_ABC	DEF_	GNone
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date	Reviewer, NR pro	10/21/99 ogram	Date

Preparer:

P.A.C. Spero & Company

September 1996/revised November 1998

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST ADDENDUM SHEET U.S. 301 SOUTH CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Property Name: Old Bells Methodist Church Survey No.: PG: 76B-17 (PACS A179)

Property Address 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Prince George's County

Owner Name/Address Trustees of Bells Methodist Church, 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746

Year Built 1909-1910, 1954, 1960

Description:

Old Bells Methodist Church was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in 1973 and by the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission in 1985 and 1987. Since the time of the previous survey, the property is unaltered. However, previous surveys did not include descriptions of the 1954 sanctuary, the circa 1960 parsonage and the circa 1960 education building.

The 1954 sanctuary is located southwest of the 1909 chapel. The 3-bay, 1-story sanctuary building has a raised basement, a concrete foundation and brick exterior walls. The front-gable roof has no cornice and is covered in slate shingles. The side elevations of the sanctuary have paired casement windows with steel frames and stone surrounds. Brick buttresses with stone caps are located between the windows. The main entry is located in the projecting, front-gable narthex on the front, or north elevation of the sanctuary. The double batten doors have a Gothic-arch stone surround. Small windows are located on each side of the entrance. Above the entrance, the steeple has a brick base with an inset stone panel and a metal spire.

A circa 1960 education building is attached to the south end of the sanctuary. The 2-story, 3-bay education building is constructed of brick with a flat roof. The steel-frame windows have awning sashes and stone surrounds. The education building has entrances on the east, south and west elevations.

South of the education building is the circa 1960 parsonage. The brick parsonage has a split-level design with a 2-story, 3-bay main block on the west and a 1-story, 2-bay wing on the east. The main block has a side-gable roof and 1/1 double-hung windows with louvered shutters. The east wing has a side-gable roof with a chimney in the east gable end. A bay-window is located in the east bay of the front, or north elevation, while an entry is located in the west bay. A detached 3-bay brick garage is located southeast of the parsonage.

Significance:

The history of Bells Methodist Church parallels the development of Methodism in the United States. In 1784, the Methodist-Episcopal Church of the United States was organized by Francis Asbury. The early church consisted of "circuits" of private homes where travelling preachers stopped to speak. Early preachers were challenged to establish twelve new preaching places per year. These preaching places came to be called "classes," which elected a leader to direct meetings between visits by the preacher. Many classes later became congregations. The Prince George's County circuit was organized in 1793. Beginning in 1805, James Beall led a Methodist class in Camp Springs. The class had constructed a small building and was known as "Bells Chapel" by 1813, when Bishop Francis Asbury paid a visit (Readmond et al. 1980, 1-2).

The first Bells Church was located near the Tolson's Grove Camp Meeting Ground. Camp meetings are a tradition unique to Methodism. They emerged in the early-nineteenth century as a way for large groups to hear a travelling preacher. Camp meetings were often an annual event which lasted several days. While early camp meetings had no permanent structures, some eventually included chapels, dining halls and cabins for worshippers (Lanier and Herman 1997, 174-175). Bells Church hosted camp meetings at Tolson's Grove several times during the early-nineteenth century. The camp ground had fallen out of use by the twentieth century. The location of Tolson's Grove is unknown today (Readmond et al 1980, 2).

In 1850, Bells Church acquired a parcel of land on the north end of its current site and constructed a log chapel (Ibid, 5).

The Methodist Episcopal Church in Maryland experienced a major conflict on the eve of the Civil War. In 1860, the General Conference in Buffalo, New York passed a resolution disallowing slave ownership. This resolution was problematic to churches in border states such as Maryland, and in 1861, the Baltimore Conference voted to sever all ties with the General Conference. Most churches in Maryland circuits chose to join circuits of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, which was headquartered in Virginia. Bells Church, however, chose to remain part of the northern Church, a decision which led to fluctuations in membership and general instability during the 1860s and 1870s (lbid, 5-7).

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
September 1996/revised November 1998

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST ADDENDUM SHEET U.S. 301 SOUTH CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Property Name: Old Bells Methodist Church Survey No.: PG: 76B-17 (PACS A179)

Property Address 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Prince George's County

Owner Name/Address Trustees of Bells Methodist Church, 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746

Year Built 1909-1910, 1954, 1960

Significance: (continued)

In 1870, the log chapel which had been constructed circa 1850 burned. A frame chapel was built in its place. The congregation had outgrown that chapel by the early-twentieth century, and in 1909, the trustees of the church purchased a parcel of land closer to Allentown road. The present wood-frame church was constructed on the new parcel in 1910 and enlarged in 1937 (Readmond et al. 1980, 7-8). The older chapel was auctioned and moved to a site on the corner of Allentown Road and Temple Hill Road. That building has since been demolished (Conversation with Clergy at Bell's Church, 10/20/98).

Camp Springs was historically a rural agricultural community. Hopkins' 1878 Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington Including the County of Prince George, Maryland shows the Methodist Church, a schoolhouse, a blacksmith shop and the Camp Springs Post Office. As the only white Protestant church in the area, Bells Church was a gathering place and a center of community life as well as a religious institution. Despite suburbanization around Washington D.C., Camp Springs remained rural until the 1940s. The opening of Andrews Air Force Base in 1942, however, led to unprecedented growth in the area. Because the base did not originally provide housing for military families, many new suburbs were constructed. Church membership therefore increased rapidly (Conversation with Clergy at Bells Church, 10/20/98). Between 1955 and 1966, membership in Bells Church increased from 621 to 1,542. The 1954 sanctuary, the education building and the parsonage were the result of this growth (Readmond 1980, 11-12). In 1966, the Methodist Church made the controversial decision to appoint an African-American pastor, Rev. Harold Green Johnson, to the white congregation at Bells Church. Threats from the Ku Klux Klan followed, and many members left the church. Although the number of members has continued to fall, the church has remained interracial since that time (Readmond 1980, 13; Conversation with Clergy at Bells Church, 10/20/98).

The chapel now known as Old Bells Methodist Church was constructed in 1909 and remains on the site with the modern church complex. The chapel is a good example of early-twentieth century rural church architecture, and resembles some churches found in architectural pattern books of that period. However, extensive research conducted by members of the Bells Church congregation has not revealed any evidence that the chapel was built from a mass-produced pattern or kit.

National Register Evaluation:

The Old Bells Methodist Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property meets Criteria Consideration A as a religious property which derives its significance from its architecture and from its association with developments in the history of the Methodist denomination. The property is eligible under Criterion A for its association with developments in Methodism, including camp meetings, circuit parishes and religious conflicts during the Civil War. The development of the church property also parallels the transition of the Camp Springs area from a rural agricultural community to a major suburb following the construction of Andrews Air Force Base in 1942. The Bells Church congregation has been part of the Camp Springs community since it was founded in 1805. The south end of the current site has been used continuously by the congregation since 1850. The north end of the site has been in continuous use since 1909. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. The property is eligible under Criterion C as a good example of a rural church. The church retains its simple form and details such as a bell tower, Gothic-arch windows and stained glass. The church retains its integrity of location, design, workmanship and association. The cemetery does not meet Criteria Consideration D since historic research indicates that the site does not contain graves of persons of transcendent importance, nor does it contain grave markers of distinctive design. In addition, the site has no association with historic events or broad patterns of history and has no potential to yield important information.

Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
September 1996/revised November 1998

Property Name: Old Bells Methodist Church

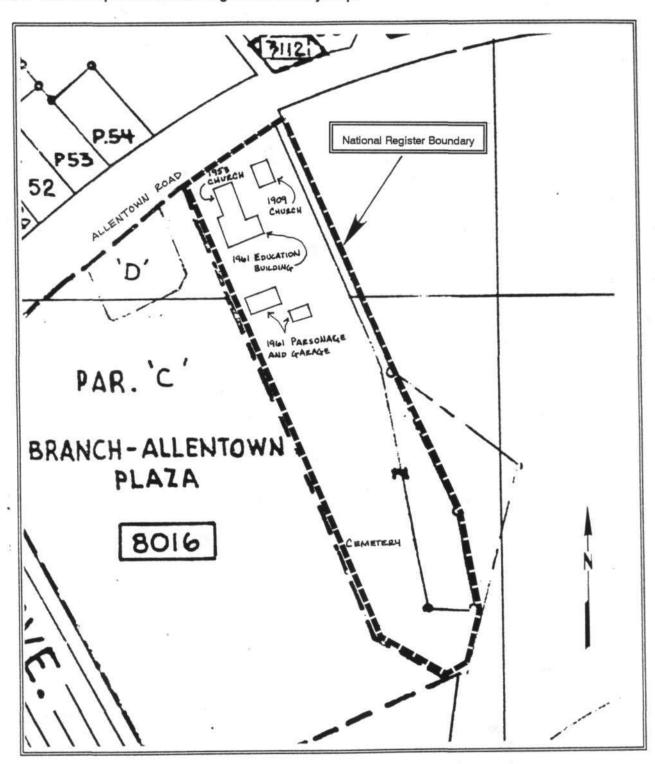
Survey No.: PG: 76B-17 (PACS A179)

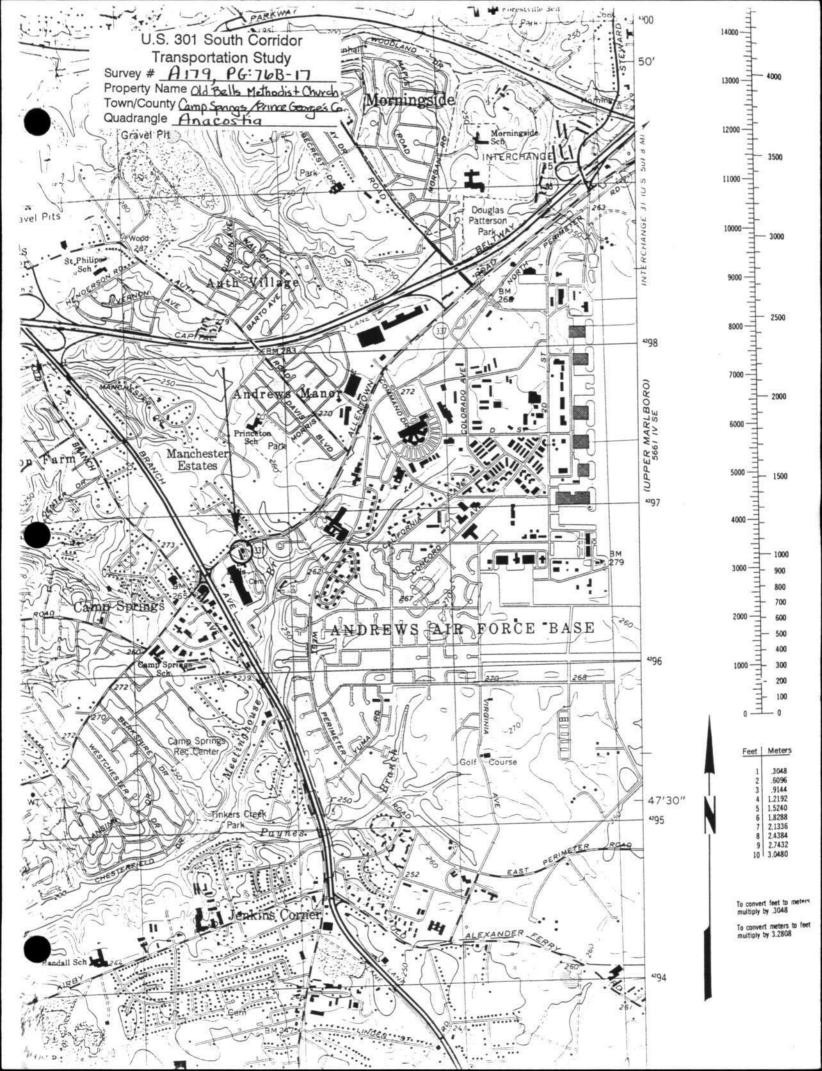
Property Address 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Prince George's County

Owner Name/Address Trustees of Bells Methodist Church, 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746

Year Built 1909-1910, 1954, 1960

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:







1. PG: 76B-17

2. OLD BELLS METHODIST CHURCH, PRINCE GEORGE'S CO. MP

3 CARDLINE HALL, 9/96

4. P.A.C. Speid & Co

40 W. Chesapeaka Avenue, Suite 4/12

BALTIMORE, MD 21204

5. 6016 Allerton Boad North elevation South View



1. PG: 76B-17 2. OLD BELLS METHODIST CHURCH, PRINCE GEORGE'S CO, MD 3, CAROLINE HALL, 9/96 4. P.A.C. Spuo & Co. 40, W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 4/12 BALTIMORE, MO 21204

5. 6016 Allentown Road South and east elevations 6. 2 of 12 Northwest view



1. PG: 76B-17 2. OID Bells Methodist Church
PRINCE GEORGE'S CO, MD 3. CAROLINE HALL, 9/96 4. P. A. C. Spero + Co. 40 w. chesopeake Ave, #412, Balto, md 21204 5. 6016 Allentown Board West elevation 6. 3 of 12 South east View



1. PG: 76B-17 2. Old Bells Methodist Church PRINCE GEORGES CO, MD 3, CAROLINE HALL, 9/96 # P.A.C. Spero+Co, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, 5. 8016 Allewarn Bead East elevation North west direction



1. P6:76B-17 2. Old Bells Methodist Church PRINCE GEORGES CO, MD 3. CAROLINE HALL , 9/96 4. P.A.C. Spero + co, 40 W. Chesapeake Ane, #412, Balto, md 21204 5. 6016 Allentown Road Cemetery
6. 50F 12 Northwest VIEW



1. PG:76B-17 2. Old Bells methodist church. PRINCE GEORGES CO. MO 3. CLROLINE HALL, 9/96 4. P.A.C. Spero + Co. 40 W. Chesopeake Ave. # 412, Bolto, md 21204 5. 6016 Allentown Boad South elevation of Church North View 6.6 of 12



- 1. PG: 768-17
- 2. OLD BELL'S METHODIST CHURCH
- 3. PRINCE GEORGE'S , MD
- 4. JULIE DARSIE
- 5. 10/98
- 6. MD SHPO
- 7. 1953 CHURCH AND 1960 EDUCATION BUILDING, NW CORNER. 7 OF 12



- 1. PG: 768-17
- 2. OLD BELLS METHODIST CHURCH
- 3. PRINCE GEORGES, MD
- 4, JULE PARSIE
- 5. 10/98
- 6. MD SHPO
- 7. 1953 CHURCH AND 1960 EOUXATION BUILDING, SW CORNER
 - 9.80F12



- 1. PG: 768-17
- 2. OLD BELLS METHODIST CHURCH
- 3. PRINCE GEORGE'S, MD
- 4. JULIE DARSIE
- 5. 10/98
- 6. MD SHPO
- 7. 1953 CHURCH AND 1960 EDUCATION BUILDING, SE CORNER
- 9. 9 OF 12



- 1. PG: 768-17
- 2. OLD BELLS METHORIST CHURCH
- 3. PRINCE GEORGE'S, MD
- 4. JULIE DARSIE
- 5. 10/98
- 6. MD SHPO
- 7. 1953 CHURCH AND 1960 EDUCATION BUILDING, NE CORNER
- 8. 10 OF 12



- 1. PG: 768-17
- 2. OLD BELLS METHODIST CHURCH
- 3. PRINCE GEORGE'S, MD
- 4. JULIE DARSIE
- 5. 10/98
- 6. MD SHPO
- 7. 1961 PARSONAGE, VIEW SE

8. 11 OF 12



- 1. PG: 768-17
- 2, OLD BELLS METHODIST CHURCH
- 3. PRINCE GEORGE'S, MD
- 4. JULIE DARSIE
- 5. 10/98
- 6. MD SHPO
- 7. 1961 PARSONAGE, VIEW NW
- 8. 12 OF 12

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST CONTINUATION SHEET U.S. 301 SOUTH CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Property Name: Old Bells Methodist Church Survey No.: PG: 76B-17 (PACS A179)

Property Address 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Prince George's County

Owner Name/Address Trustees of Bells Methodist Church, 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746

Year Built 1909-1910

Description:

Old Bells Methodist Church was previously surveyed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in 1973 and by the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission in 1985 and 1987. Since the time of the previous survey, the property is unaltered. However, previous surveys did not note a circa 1950 brick residence on the property. The structure is located south of the new church building and southwest of the old church.

National Register Evaluation:

The Old Bells Methodist Church is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. The property is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an undistinctive example of rural church architecture, which is undistinguished by any stylistic features or details. The cemetery does not meet Criteria Consideration D, as historic research indicates that the site does not contain graves of persons of transcendent importance, nor does it contain grave markers of distinctive design. In addition, the site has no association with historic events or broad patterns of history and has no potential to yield important information. Finally, the property has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MHT COMMENTS: MHT believes this property is eligible under Criterion C as a good example of rural church architecture, but more importantly, the property appears to have potential historical significance (Criterion A)—topics which should be explored include the development of Methodism during this period, the role of the church in the rural community, and whether this building may be a "stock" plan provided by the Methodist organization. Site plan does not show the newly identified ca. 1950 house and there are no photos of the 50s buildings.

MHT CONCURRENCE: Eligibility X recommended not recommended Criteria X A B X C D Considerations Comments:	ABCDEF	GNone
Suzanne Pickens 07/21/1997 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date	Reviewer, NR program	7 (24/97 Date

Preparer: P.A.C. Spero & Company September 1996 and

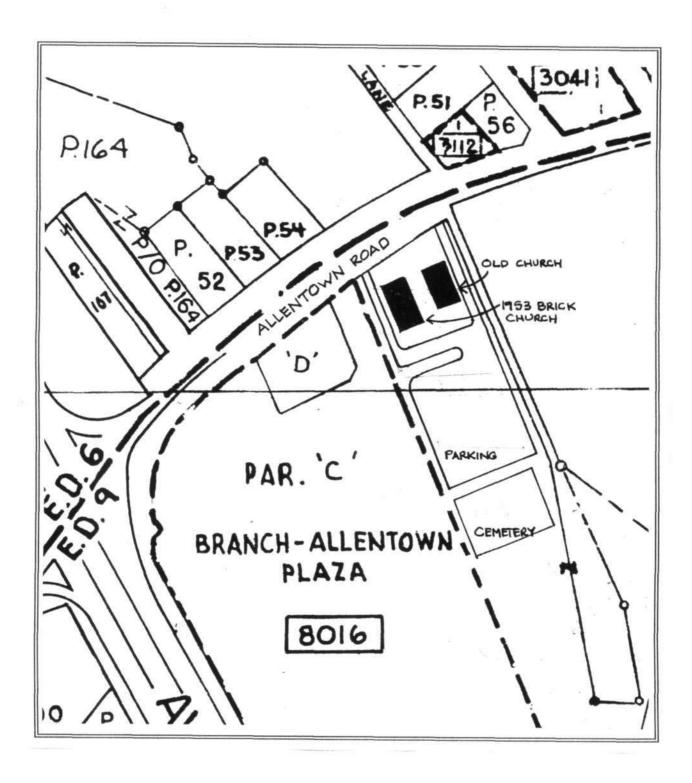
Property Name: Old Bells Methodist Church Survey No.: PG: 76B-17 (PACS A179)

Property Address 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Prince George's County

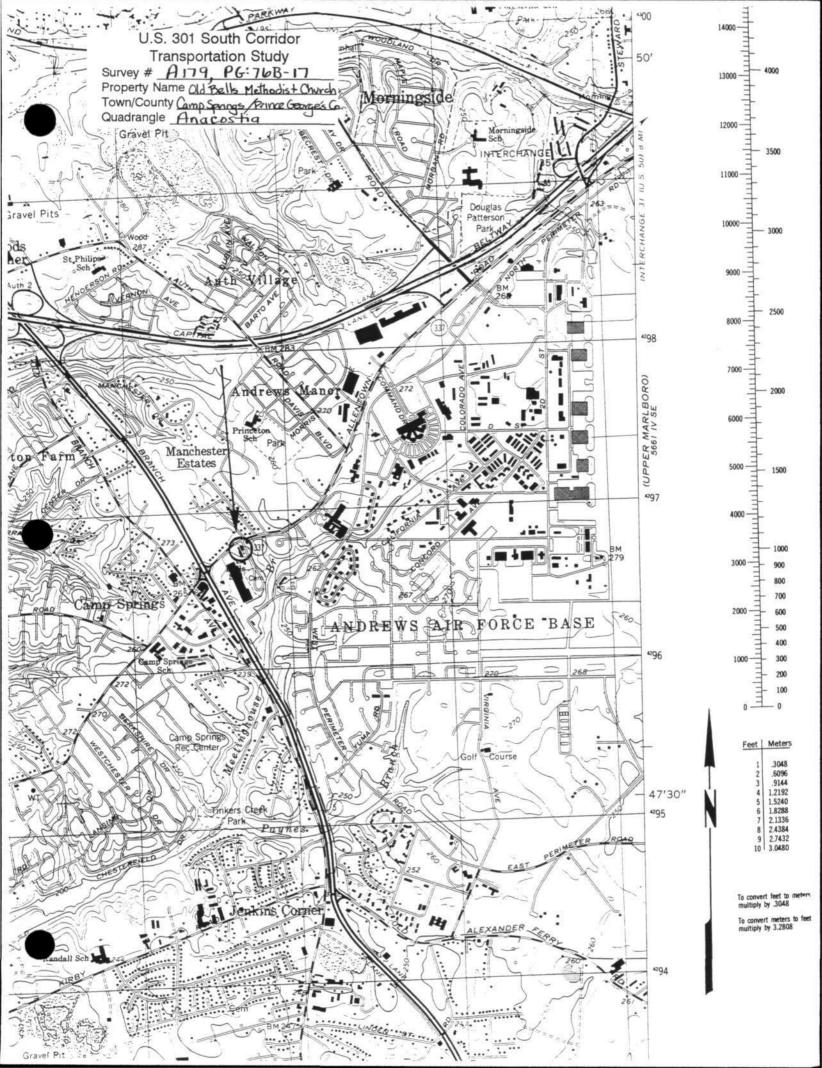
Owner Name/Address Trustees of Bells Methodist Church, 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20746

Year Built 1909-1910

Resource Sketch Map:



Preparer: P.A.C. Spero & Company September 1996



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #:	P.G.	#76B-17	(former	~1y	Buildir	ng Date:	1910	
Building N		old Bells Met	15/2	Churc	:h			_
Location:	6016	Allentown	Road,	Camp	Springs,	Maryland		
		Private/Re	eligiou	s/0cc	upied/Goo	nd/Inacces	sible	

Description:

Bells Methodist Church is a large frame gable-roofed church building, typical of this early twentieth century type. Entrance is through panelled double doors centrally located in the north gable end. Above the doors is a gothic-arched transom filled with stained glass; and above this a small round stained glass window. On each side of the central doors is a gothic-arched stained glass window. Built into the northwest corner is a tall bell tower, with pointed-arched openings on all four faces. The sides of the church are four bays long; all windows are gothic-arched, double sash, filled with stained glass. The interior features a decorative molded tin ceiling and wainscoting. The building is covered with white asbestos shingle, oundations are of poured concrete. South of the church, is a cemetery with eadstones as early as from the mid-nineteenth century.

Significance:

Bells Methodist Church is a good example of the plain Gothic Revival church style which was popular in Prince George's County early in this century. It is the third building constructed on this site since the church was founded in 1850. In August of that year, five trustees of the Methodist Church (including James Beall, for whom the first church was named) purchased an acre of land near Camp Springs; a small log church was constructed on this land. This log chapel burned in the 1870's, and a second frame chapel was built on its site. In 1909, an adjoining piece of land, extending the property to the county road, and in the following year the third church (known as the "White Church") was built. The "White Church" was used until 1954 when the fourth church was constructed.

Acreage: 4.58 acres

Survey No. P.G.#76B-17 (formerly 76A-9) Magi No.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE __yes __no

1. Name (indicate	nucleum de none		
	preferred name)		
historic Old Bells Methodi			
and/or common	22.		
2. Location			
street & number 6016 Allent	town Road (Maryland Rout	e 337)	not for publication
city, town Camp Springs	vicinity of	congressional district	4th
state Maryland	county	Prince George's	
3. Classification			
Category Ownership district publicbuilding(s) private structure both site Public Acquisition in process being considere not applicab	yes: restricted yes: unrestricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owner of Prop	erty (give names an	nd mailing addresses	of <u>all</u> owners)
name Trustees of Bells Meth	nodist Church	я	
street & number 6016 Allentow	n Road	telephone no.	: 899-7521
city, town Camp Springs	state	and zip code Maryland	d 20746
5. Location of Le	gal Description	on	
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.			liber #48
street & number Main Street			folio 451
city, town Upper Marlboro		state Ma	aryland
6. Representation	n in Existing	Historical Survey	/s
title P. G. County Inven	tory of Historic Sites		
date 1974	(*)	federal state	X county loc
depository for survey records Hist	Oric Preservation Com	mission c/o M-NCPPC	
city, town			Maryland

Condition		Check one	Check one				
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	_X_ original si	ite			
	ruins	_X_ altered	moved	date	of	move	
fair	unexposed						

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Bells Methodist Church is a three bay by four bay (ca. 36 x 50) frame gable-roof church building, typical of this early twentieth century meeting house type. Entrance is through double doors centrally located in the north gable end; each leaf has five molded panels. Two lateral flights of steps ascend to a central concrete stoop; this entrance, defined by a metal railing, replaces the original central flight of steps to the double doors. Above the doors, a horizontal molded panel with a course of cyma reversa molding separates the doors from the gothic-arch transom; the transom is filled with decorative stained glass. On each side of the central doors is a gothic- arched stained glass window. Built into the northwest corner is a tall bell tower, with pointed-arched openings on all four faces. The tower is surmounted by a tall, steeply pitched pyramidal roof covered with black synthetic shingle.

The sides of the church are four bays long; all windows are gothicarched, double sash, filled with stained glass. (The windows are currently in the process of being restored and releaded.) The original siding is covered with white asbestos shingle, and the roof with gray synthetic shingle. The poured concrete foundation encloses a full basement. Set into the northeast corner of the foundation is a cornerstone which reads: "Bell's Methodist Episcopal Church 1909." Extending south from the south gable end is a lower two-bay gable-roof addition which encloses the original sanctuary. It has an entrance in the second bay of its east facade. This gable roof addition is lighted by gothic-arched double hung sash windows filled with frosted glass, and has entrance in the second bay of the east facade.

A one-story two-bay concrete block bathroom addition was constructed in 1936. It is lighted by modern two-pane sliding windows.

The interior of the main block is a single room, now devoted to use as a thrift shop. The surrounds of doors and windows are multi-band moldings with bulls-eye corner blocks. The walls are covered with wainscoting below the chair rail. The three-plane coved ceiling is covered with a decorative pressed metal ceiling: rows of square plaques with a floral border, all painted white.

South of the church, on the property where the first church building stood, is a cemetery with headstones from as early as the mid-nineteenth century. Directly west of the old church is the new (1953) church; it is a five bay front-gabled brick building, buttressed between bays, and with slate covered gable roof. Attached to the rear (south) of the church is a (1961) brick office/educational wing.

		Check and justify below oric community planning landscape architectur conservation law economics literature education military engineering music exploration/settlement philosophy industry politics/government invention	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific	dates 1909-1910	Builder/Architect	
check:	Applicable Criteria: and/or Applicable Exception:	_A _B _C _D _A _B _C _D _E _F _G	28 EV EV
	Level of Significance:	nationalstatelocal	15

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Bells Methodist Church is a good example of the modest Gothic Revival church style which was popular in Prince George's County early in this century. It is the third building constructed on this site since a meeting house was built here in 1850.

Even earlier than the first recorded church building on this site, a group of Methodists was meeting in this area under the leadership of James Beall. Be(a) lls Chapel was referred to by Bishop Frances Asbury during his travels through Maryland in 1813, and, at the time of James Beall's death in 1859, his obituary recorded his long life of activity with this congregation. "He was, it is said, the founder of the M.E. Church known as Beall's Meeting House, and was 56 years a member, and 54 years an active class leader at that station." "Bells Meeting House" is described in the 1828 road survey of Prince George's County, on Road #5 in Election District #6; this description places it very close to its present location.²

In August of 1850, five trustees of the Methodist Church (including James Beall) purchased an acre of land, part of the tract known as Manchester, from Henry and Mary Tolson. On this land a small log chapel was constructed. This chapel burned down in the 1870's, and a second frame chapel was built on the same parcel of land. In 1909 an adjoining piece of land (extending to the county road) was purchased, and, in the following year, the subject chapel (known as the "White Church") was built on this land. (The second chapel was sold and moved to Padgetts Corner in 1911 to serve as a store building.) Bells Church was on the Bladensburg Circuit until 1862 and part of the Forestville Charge until 1911. At that time Bells Church joined Oxon Hill and composed the Camp Springs Charge.

An addition was built onto the "White Church" in 1936; this building was used until 1954 when the fourth (brick) church was completed.4

Although the "White Church" has not been used as a sanctuary since this time, it still serves a distinct purpose for the Bells United Methodist Church congregation. The pews have been removed, and the interior is now set up as a Thrift Shop. The full basement, in addition to its use as a storage area, is presently in use as a workshop for the painstaking restoration of the stained glass windows.

Old Bells Church has long associations with the early spread of Methodism in Prince George's County and is an important part of the cultural heritage of the County. The 1910 church building exhibits distinctive characteristics of early twentieth century Gothic Revival "meeting house" churches, and is a prominent landmark in the fast developing Camp Springs area.

Notes

- Planters' Advocate, 18 May 1859; "The Beginnings of Bells United Methodist Church, Camp Springs, Maryland, 1805-1980".
- 2 1828 Road Survey, Prince George's County Levy Court Records, 1828.
- 3 Prince George's County Deed, JBB#6:578
- 4 Prince George's County Deed, #48:451; "The Beginnings of Bells United Methodist Church".

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.P.G.#76B-17

See notes, item #8
See chain of title

(formerly #76A-9)

Interview with minister and member of congregation, February 1985

Acreage of n	ominated property	4.58 acres	Tax	map #98, parcel	113
Quadrangle UTM Referen	name Anacostia quad				le scale
Zone E	asting Northing	لتنا	Zone	لتابلا	Northing
C			D		
G L L			н		
Verbal hou	ndary description and jus	tification			
verbai bou					
verbai bou	nuary description and jus				22 (44)
			apping state or	county boundaries	e e
List all stat			apping state or	county boundaries	code
List all stat		erties overl	V	county boundaries	
List all stat state state		erties overla	county	county boundaries	code
List all statestate	es and counties for prop	erties overla	county	county boundaries	code
List all state state 11. F	orm Prepare	code code d By	county		code
List all statestate State 11. Formame/title	orm Prepare	code code d By	county		code code 35 and May 1987

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.0	G. # 76B-17	Building Date:	1910
Building Name:	Bells Methodist (Church	
Location: 6016	Allentown Road, O	Camp Springs, Maryland	
	Private/Religious	s/Occupied/Good/Inacces	ssible

Description:

Bells Methodist Church is a large frame gable-roofed church building, typical of this early twentieth century type. Entrance is through panelled double doors centrally located in the north gable end. Above the doors is a gothic-arched transom filled with stained glass; and above this a small round stained glass window. On each side of the central doors is a gothic-arched stained glass window. Built into the northwest corner is a tall bell tower, with pointed-arched openings on all four faces. The sides of the church are four bays long; all windows are gothic-arched, double sash, filled with stained glass. The interior features a decorative molded tin ceiling and wainscoting. The building is covered with white asbestos shingle, foundations are of poured concrete. South of the church, is a cemetery with headstones as early as from the mid-nineteenth century.

Significance:

Bells Methodist Church is a good example of the plain Gothic Revival church style which was popular in Prince George's County early in this century. It is the third building constructed on this site since the church was founded in 1850. In August of that year, five trustees of the Methodist Church (including James Beall, for whom the first church was named) purchased an acre of land near Camp Springs; a small log church was constructed on this land. This log chapel burned in the 1870's, and a second frame chapel was built on its site. In 1909, an adjoining piece of land, extending the property to the county road, and in the following year the third church (known as the "White Church") was built. The "White Church" was used until 1954 when the fourth church was constructed.

Acreage: 4.58 acres

Survey No. P.G. 76B-17

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)	Edition (Ignor) vising visit (Ignor) (
1. Name (indicate preferred name)	
historic Bells Methodist Church	fidanuli tettanteM aftel Klunchit
and/or common	through pallets done through
2. Location	energy for the call files of steps
street & number 6016 Allentown Road	not for publication
city, town Camp Springs vicinity of	congressional district 4th
state Maryland county	Prince George's
3. Classification	carched, nownle sash, filled w
Category Ownership Status	Present Use agriculturemuseumcommercialparkeducationalprivate residenceentertainmentreligiousgovernmentscientificindustrialtransportationmilitaryother:
4. Owner of Property (give names a	and mailing addresses of <u>all</u> owners)
name Trustees of Bells Methodist Church	South of the church, on
street & number 6016 Allentown Road	telephone no.: 899-7521
city, town Camp Springs state	and zip code Maryland 20331
5. Location of Legal Descripti	on
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. County Courtho	ouse liber #48
street & number Main Street	folio 451
city, town Upper Marlboro	state Maryland
6. Representation in Existing	Historical Surveys
title P. G. County Inventory of Historic Sites	
date 1974	federal state _X county local
epository for survey records History Division MNCPPC	
Riverdale	

7. Description

Survey No. PG 76B-17

Condition	dataviavatad	Check one	Check one X original site	
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fair	uneynosed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Bells Methodist Church is a large (ca. 36×50) frame gable-roofed church building, typical of this early twentieth century type. Entrance is through panelled double doors centrally located in the north gable end. (Two lateral flights of steps ascend to a concrete porch to form the entrance, replacing the original single direct flight). Above the doors is a gothic-arched transom filled with stained glass; and above this a small round stained glass window. On each side of the central doors is a gothic-arched stained glass window. Built into the northwest corner is a tall bell tower, with pointed-arched openings on all four faces.

The sides of the church are four bays long; all windows are gothicarched, double sash, filled with stained glass. (The windows are currently in the process of being restored and releaded.) The building is covered with white asbestos shingle, and the roof with synthetic shingles. There is a full basement, with foundations of poured concrete. There are two small additions on the south gable ends.

The interior of the main block is a single room, now devoted to use as a thrift shop. The surrounds of doors and windows are multi-band moldings with bulls-eye corner blocks. The walls are covered with wainscoting below the chair rail. The three-plane ceiling is covered with a decorative molded tin ceiling: rows of square plaques with a floral border.

South of the church, on the property where the first church stood, is a cemetery with headstones from as early as the mid-nineteenth century.

8. Sign	ificance	Surve	y No.	P.G. 76B-17
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Specific dates	1910	Builder/Architect		
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2 "The Beginnings of Bells United Methodist Church"

4 "The Beginnings of Bells United Methodist Church"

3 Prince George's County Deed, #48:451

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG 76B-17

See notes, item #8
See chain of title
Interview with minister and member of congregation, February 1985

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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

Chain of Title

Bells Church P.G. 76B-17

48:451 8 March 1909 Deed Wallace R. Pyles and Alice J. Pyles to George T. Pyles, Wallace R. Pyles, Samuel H. Wood, William Payne, Joseph Kidwell and James Laing, Trustees of Bells Methodist Episcopal Church; 4.58 acres of land lying along the road leading to the present church between the land of said church and the county road.

JBB#6:578 27 Aug 1850 Deed Henry Tolson and Mary Tolson to James Beall, Francis Miliken, Judson Pumphrey, Thomas Piles and William Piles, Trustees; 1 acre and 32 poles from the tract called "Manchester".

PG: 76B-17 7

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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NOMINATION FORM for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

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The building is a frame structure with a three bay, gable end main (north) facade. The openings, windows flanking a doorway, have pointed-arched heads. The windows are glazed with stained glass; the door is square-headed with a pointed-arched tympanum, glazed with stained glass. The sidewalls have four pointed-arched windows. At the northwest corner is a square bell tower, with pointed-arched openings on all four faces.

South of the church is a cemetery with headstones dating to the early to mid-nineteenth century.

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BELLS METHODIST CHURCH 6016 Allentown Road, S.E. Washington, D.C.

BELLS METHODIST CHURCH

RALPH W. WOTT, MINISTER

In 1814, Asbury writes that "I preached at Bells Chapel." This may mark the beginning of Methodism in this area. However, in the year 1849, the religious interests of the community quickened and a Methodist Society was formed. The present sanctuary is the fourth built on the same grounds. Bells began as a small rural church; Bells is now in the midst of suburbia, serving people from many avenues of life.

THE ARLINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

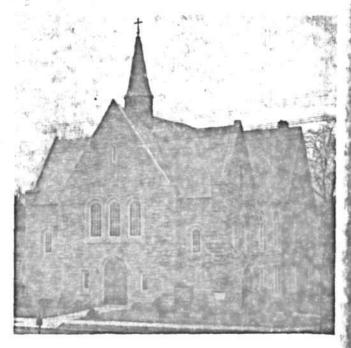
ERROL G. SMITH, MINISTER

The church known as the Arlington Methodist Church, at 5268 Reisterstown Road, was formed by a merger of three Methodist churches in the Reisterstown Road and Park Heights Avenue area.

The first service for the Arlington Methodist Episcopal Church South was held Sunday, October 10, 1869.

The Whatcoat Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated December 16, 1906.

The McKendree Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated February 28, 1903. The merger was consumated on May 20, 1944.



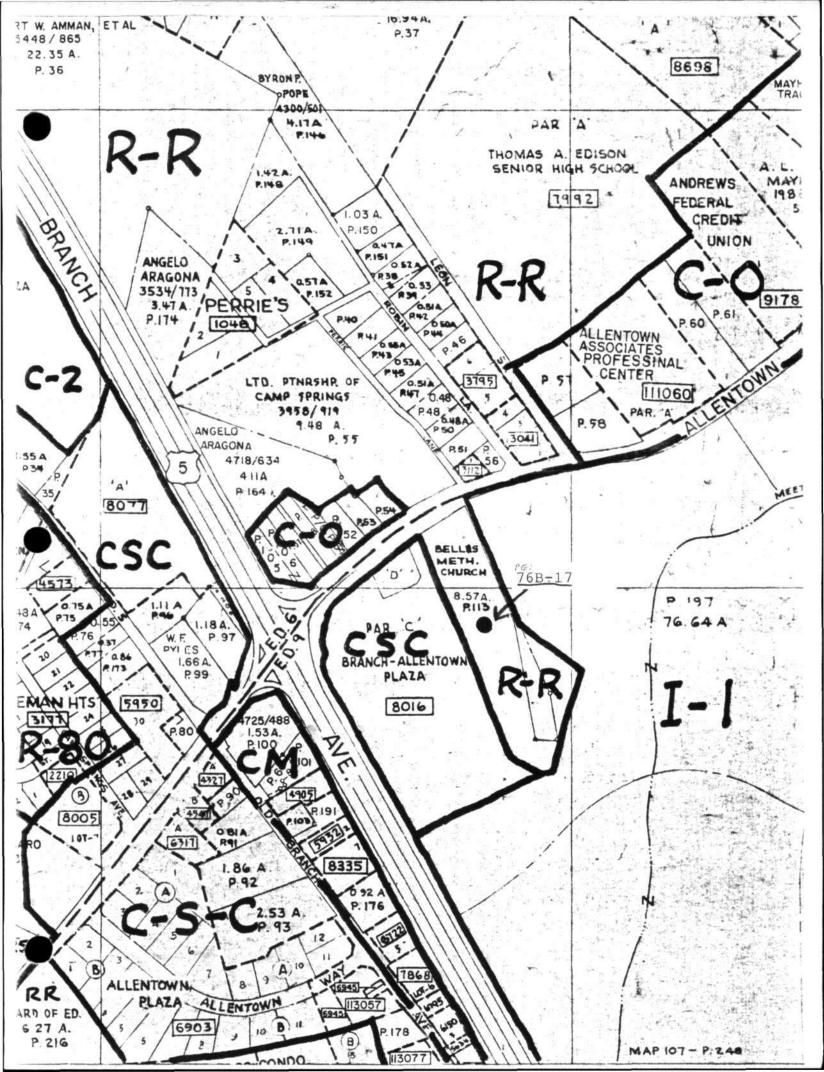
THE ARLINGTON METHODIST CHURCH 5268 Reisterstown Road Baltimore, Md.

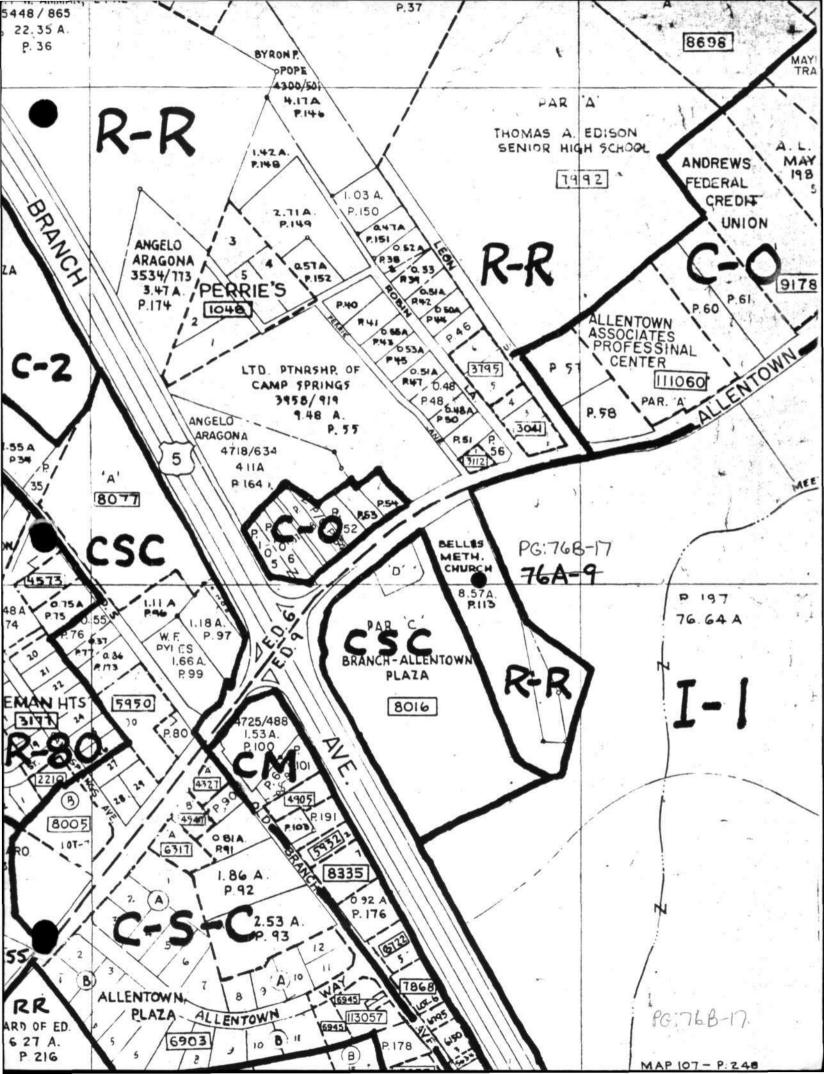
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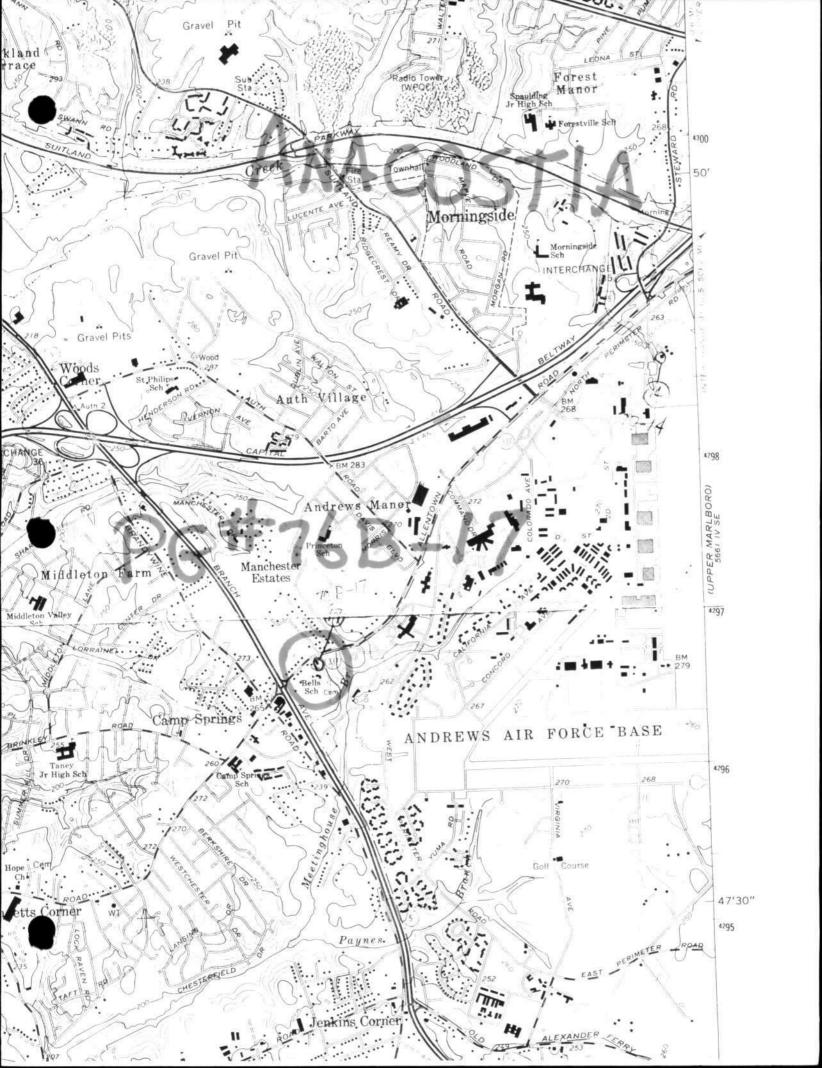
Old Bells Methodist Church P.G. #76B-17 (formerly 76A-9)

48:451 8 March 1909 Deed Wallace R. Pyles and Alice J. Pyles to George T. Pyles, Wallace R. Pyles, Samuel H. Wood, William Payne, Joseph Kidwell and James Laing, Trustees of Bells Methodist Episcopal Church; 4.58 acres of land lying along the road leading to the present church between the land of said church and the county road.

JBB#6:578 27 Aug 1850 Deed Henry Tolson and Mary Tolson to James Beall, Francis Milliken, Judson Pumphrey, Thomas Piles and William Piles, Trustees; 1 acre and 32 poles from the tract called "Manchester".









NAME BELL'S UM/ME CHURCH
LOCATION ALLENTOWN BY WEAR RIS CAMP SPRINGS, MY
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PHOTO TAKEN 12/10/73 M. DWYER



NAME BELL'S U.M. CHURCH 86:76B-17

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PHOTO TAKEN 12/10/73 M.DWYER



NAME BELL'S UM/ME CHURCH PG: 76B-17

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LOCATION ALLENTOWN Rd. NEAR Rt.5 CAMP SPRINGS, Hd

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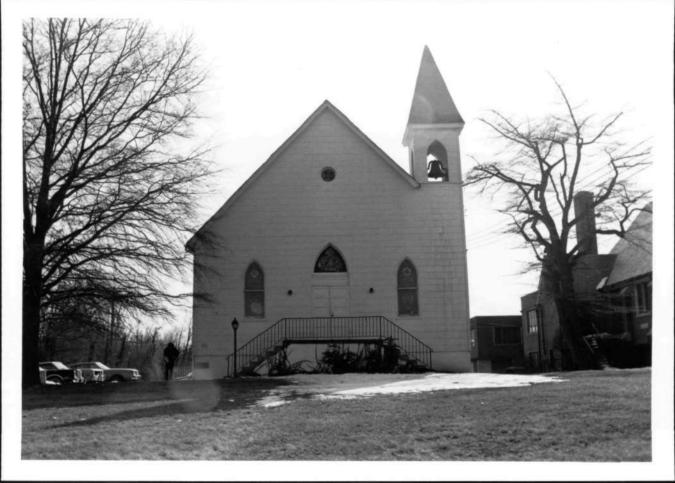
PG: 76B-17

Bells Methodist Church Prince George's County, MD.

Northwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.

Susan G. Pearl January 1985



PG: 76B-17 Bells Methodist Church

Prince George's County, MD. Susan G. Pearl

January 1985

North elevation Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



PG: 76B-17

Bells Methodist Church

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.

Susan G. Pearl January 1985 East elevation

Prince George's County, MD.